

March 19, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Bellevue Avenue Widening and Reconstruction Sonoma County

On January 23, 2002 the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Ed Baker, on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa Public Works Department, requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the state (wetlands) and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

As proposed, the project will impact drainage swales along Bellevue Avenue and 0.001 acre of bank along Colgan Creek. The drainage swales will be removed to accommodate the construction of left turn lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, and planter strips. New water mains, sewer mains, and storm drains will also be constructed. A section of bank along Colgan Creek will be disturbed during the installation of a 48 inch corrugated metal pipe which will divert storm runoff into Colgan Creek. Rock rip-rap will be placed around the pipe outlet to prevent erosion. Approximately 35 mature trees along the roadway may also be removed, some of which qualify as "Heritage" or "Protected", according to the City of Santa Rosa.

Construction is proposed to take place during the summer months of 2002 and 2003 in order to avoid erosion problems and other water quality impacts that would be more prevalent during the winter months. To mitigate for the loss of any trees which could not be preserved, trees will be planted in the new planting strips. Additionally, any "Protected" or "Heritage" trees that are removed will be replaced with trees of the same species and genus, either on-site or within Colgan Creek (based upon City Ordinance Number 4014 guidelines and in consultation with a certified arborist). The roadside drainage swales may qualify as habitat for sensitive species; the Regional Water Board is investigating the possibility of requiring mitigation.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted by the City of Santa Rosa on March 8, 2000 and a De Minimus Impact Finding from the Department of Fish and Game was issued on May 31, 2000. The project will also require a 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game.

At this time the Regional Water Quality Control Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Certification Permit. In addition, the Regional Water Quality Control Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by email at hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, or send comments to North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.